



# The War Begins and The Declaration Of Independence

## Answer the following questions:

1. What was Thomas Jefferson's goal in writing the Declaration of Independence?
2. To what "truth" about natural rights does Jefferson point?
3. Why does Jefferson believe that a group of people can change their government? In what cases is this acceptable?
4. Explain 3 examples of the king's "tyranny" that Jefferson gives as reasons for independence.

# Purpose of the Declaration:

- \* Declaration of Independence adopted on July 4, 1776
- \* Addressed to world but written for American people
- \* Jefferson wanted to convince colonists that rebelling against the king was right
- \* Said that people establish governments to protect their **natural rights**
- \* Accused King George III of **tyranny**: cruel and unjust use of power
- \* **Abigail Adams**, wife of John Adams, urged Jefferson and Congress to include women in Declaration